

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, Claims 4, 8, 11, 15 and 19 have been amended, and Claim 19 has been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al.

Claims 8 and 11 have been amended to recite “washing the rivets with a solution containing chromic acid and a fluorine compound.” Support for this amendment is provided in the specification at page 3, paragraph 15. It is thus respectfully submitted that Keener and Kishikawa et al. fail to teach, disclose or suggest washing rivets with a solution containing chromic acid and a fluorine compound, as is claimed.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 8-13 are novel and inventive over Keener '230 and Kishikawa et al., and that the rejection of Claims 8-13 on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 and Kishikawa et al. should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al., and further in view of Nonweiler et al. and Kaneko et al. Claim 19 has been cancelled. Nonweiler et al. was cited as teaching grit blasting with aluminum oxide, and Kaneko et al. (at column 2, lines 34+) was cited as teaching a method of improving corrosion resistance of an aluminum substrate by treatments such as washing the substrate with a solution containing chromic

acid and fluorides. Claim 1 recites "washing the heat treated rivets with a solution containing chromic acid and a fluorine compound." Claim 4 similarly has been amended to recite "washing the heat treated rivets with a solution containing chromic acid and a fluorine compound." Claim 15 has similarly been amended to recite "pre-treating the heat treated rivets with a solution containing chromic acid and a fluorine compound."

Kaneko et al. at column 2, lines 34+ discloses "In general, chromic acid-chromate coatings are formed by treating the aluminum surface with an aqueous solution containing chromic acid, an alkali metal dichromate and an alkali metal fluoride, bifluoride or complex fluoride." In the present invention, the coating is not formed by such a solution as is disclosed in Kaneko et al.; rather, the chromic acid and fluorine compound is used in a pre-treatment step prior to forming a coating. It is respectfully submitted that Kaneko et al. does not teach, disclose or suggest a pre-treatment step of pre-treating the heat treated rivets with a solution containing chromic acid and a fluorine compound. It is respectfully submitted that Keener '230, Kishikawa et al., Nonweiler et al. and Kaneko et al. fail to teach, disclose or suggest washing heat treated rivets with a solution containing chromic acid and a fluorine compound, as a pre-treatment step prior to providing a coating, as is claimed. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are novel and inventive over Keener '230, Kishikawa et al., Nonweiler et al., and Kaneko et al., and that the rejection of Claims 1-6, 15, 16, 18 and 19 on the grounds of obviousness from Keener '230 in view of Kishikawa et al., and further in view of Nonweiler et al., and Kaneko et al. should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over the references cited, and favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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